## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2001 LB 640

beef up, and this particular bill would help enhance their ability to make sure those services are provided in the community. And that way we will divert some kids to some earlier interventions that may be successful in keeping them out of our...out of Kearney and Geneva, which, as you know, have been probably for some counties the only alternative, and those were the counties that prior to the assessment process as being put in place were crowding some of our facilities just because they had nothing else available in their area other than that to So this is to try to get to, I think, what you were saying we should get to, and that is an array of services across the I do take exception, I guess, only because I've been state. able to be part of a county that's developed a lot of programming in response to a collaborative effort that's gone on for about ten years of a group of people from law enforcement to the schools, to the probation officers, to social services, to the sheriff's office, and local businessperson was the chair, one year a psychiatrist was the chair. We've had different people involved who said, what is missing in Sarpy County, what do we need to have, what are the biggest problems we have out And have successfully worked over the years to get that...those gaps in services and those pieces in place. Sometimes it was really simple things that were just a matter of talking to each other, which I think having the juvenile service planning process can make happen. Others required them going out and trying to find the funding, whether it be from the county or social services agencies they collaboratively to try to fill those gaps in services. And I think it's that process we're trying to enhance throughout the You know, I don't like to brag, and I am not bragging for myself, but I do think Sarpy County could serve as a model of people working together to try to address these...these issues and have for a long time, and I think once the counties come together and bring those same players together throughout the state, and develop these plans, and look at what the needs are and what they could be doing, if they have an incentive for some of the money to come from the state, we can be in a whole lot better position than we are today and we'd have fewer kids coming into the state system. So it's a win-win. It's a win for the counties. I hope, to be able to reach the goals that they are having difficulty doing because of funding limitations,